

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 BUENOS 06610 251758Z
ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7138

S E C R E T BUENOS AIRES 6610

EXDIS

FOR ARA AMBASSADOR VAKY FROM AMBASSADOR CASTRO

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: SHUM AR
SUBJ: INVITATION TO IAHC

REF: A) BUENOS AIRES 6552

1. EMBOFF CONTACTED RICARDO YOFRE OF PRESIDENCY LAST EVENING TO INQUIRY ABOUT PRESIDENCY'S EMISSARY TO IAHC. YOFRE WAS MOST RELUCTANT TO REVEAL INFORMATION BUT AGREED UPON ASSURANCE IT WOULD BE CLOSELY PROTECTED. HE FELT THAT IF WIDELY KNOWN, INCLUDING IN DEPARTMENT, IT COULD BE LEAKED WHICH WOULD TOTALLY DESTROY THIS INITIATIVE.

2. ACCORDING TO YOFRE, EMISSARY IS COLONEL CARLOS CERDA, A MEMBER OF THE STAFF OF GENERAL VILLARREAL, FOR WHOM YOFRE ALSO WORKS. COLONEL CERDA IS OSTENSIBLY IN WASHINGTON ON VACATION BUT HAS REPORTEDLY HAD DISCUSSIONS WITH AGUILAR OF IAHC WHICH YOFRE DESCRIBED AS ENCOURAGING.

3. EMBOFF SUGGESTED THAT A DISCUSSION BETWEEN COLONEL CERDA AND STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL COULD BE MOST USEFUL AT THIS JUNCTURE. YOFRE REPLIED INDICATING
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RELUCTANCE, PRIMARILY BECAUSE ANY LEAK WOULD DESTROY CERDA'S MISSION, AND POSSIBLY HIS PROFESSIONAL FUTURE IN ARGENTINA. HE WAS PARTICULARLY CONCERNED THAT THE ARGENTINE EMBASSY MIGHT GET WIND OF CERDA'S MISSION. YOFRE ULTIMATELY AGREED THAT CONVERSATION WITH CERDA IN THE DEPARTMENT COULD BE PRODUCTIVE AND UNDERTOOK TO CABLE HIM TO AGREE TO PARTICIPATE IF HE WERE APPROACHED.

YOFRE'S INSTRUCTIONS FOR REACHING CERDA WERE THAT HIS FRIEND WAYNE SMITH, CURRENTLY DIRECTOR OF CCA, SHOULD CALL ARNALDO LISTRE OF THE ARGENTINE OAS MISSION. CERDA MAY BE STAYING WITH LISTRE WHO IS A CLOSE FRIEND OF YOFRE.

4. I RECOMMEND THAT A HIGH RANKING OFFICER, PREFERABLY YOURSELF, TALK WITH CERDA. WHILE I REALIZE THAT YOU MUST STAY OUT OF THE GOA'S NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE IAHRC, THIS IS AN IDEAL OPPORTUNITY FOR YOU TO DISABUSE THE ARGENTINE PRESIDENT'S PERSONAL AGENT THAT THE OBJECTIVE OF US POLICY IS TO BRING DOWN HIS GOVERNMENT. THIS THEME IS BEING HEARD WITH GREATER FREQUENCY IN BUENOS AIRES AND MUST CONCERN VIDELA AND VIOLA. TALKING WITH COLONEL CERDA ALSO GIVES US AN EXCELLENT PIPELINE DIRECTLY TO PRESIDENCY FOR OTHER MESSAGES WHICH SEEM TO GET BADLY DILUTED WHEN TRANSMITTED THROUGH THE FOREIGN OFFICE. SINCE CERDA IS AN EMISSARY OF THE PRESIDENCY I SUGGEST YOU OR YOUR DEPUTY RECEIVE HIM IF YOU DECIDE TO FOLLOW UP ON THIS PROPOSAL. AT YOFRE'S REQUEST, PLEASE DO NOT RAISE THE TOPIC OF CERDA'S DISCUSSION WITH AGUILAR UNLESS HE DOES SO FIRST. CASTRO

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